

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the internal circumference of an anatomic orifice or lumen, comprising the steps of:

~~stopping the flow of physiological fluids through an anatomic orifice or lumen;~~

introducing an adjustable implant device adjacent to an internal surface near said anatomic orifice or lumen, said implant device substantially defining a plane;

securing the adjustable implant device to tissue adjacent said anatomic orifice or lumen, wherein said adjustable implant device comprises a docking mechanism configured to operably engage an adjustment tool to adjust size or shape of said adjustable implant device;

~~resuming the flow of physiological fluids through said anatomic orifice or lumen;~~ and

~~after said step of resuming the flow of physiological fluids,~~ adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device using an adjustment tool operably engaged with said docking mechanism, wherein said adjustment tool has a proximal portion and a distal portion, and wherein, when operably engaged, at least the distal portion of said adjustment tool is disposed in a non-planar orientation with respect to said plane defined by said implant device.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said anatomic orifice or lumen is a heart valve.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises a step of manipulating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein said step of manipulating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool comprises a step of rotating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool from a location outside a closed incision.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein said step of manipulating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool from a location outside a closed incision comprises a step of rotating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool while said distal portion of said adjustment tool is operably engaged with said docking mechanism effective to operate said adjustment mechanism effective to adjust a size or shape of said adjustable implant device.

Claims 6-22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of the adjustable implant device is conducted under normal or near-normal physiologic conditions.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method of claim 4, further comprising a step of disengaging said adjustment tool from engagement with said docking mechanism without altering the adjusted size or shape of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of operably re-engaging said adjustment tool with said docking mechanism.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The method of claim 25, further comprising a further step of manipulating said adjustment tool, effective to re-adjust size or shape of the adjustable implant device.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of moving said distal portion of said adjustment tool to a position outside of said closed incision.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein said position outside of said closed incision comprises a position outside of the body of said patient.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises reducing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises increasing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises reducing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises increasing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device before said resuming step.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein said further step of adjusting a size or a shape of said adjustable implant device before said closing step is performed after said securing step.

Claim 35-39 (Cancelled).

Claim 40 (New): A method for controlling the internal circumference of an anatomic orifice or lumen within a body, comprising the steps of:

introducing an adjustable implant device adjacent to the internal surface of said anatomic orifice or lumen, said implant device substantially defining a plane;

securing the adjustable implant device to tissue adjacent said anatomic orifice or lumen, wherein said adjustable implant device comprises a docking mechanism configured to operably engage an adjustment tool to adjust size or shape of said adjustable implant device;

inserting the adjustment tool axially along at least a portion of the anatomic orifice or lumen to operably engage said docking mechanism; and

adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device using an adjustment tool operably engaged with said docking mechanism.

Claim 41 (New): The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of wherein said anatomic orifice or lumen is one of a mitral valve or tricuspid valve.

Claim 42 (New): The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of stopping the flow of physiological fluids through the anatomic orifice or lumen; and

following said step of inserting, resuming the flow of physiological fluids through said anatomic orifice or lumen.

Claim 43 (New): The method of claim 40, wherein said adjustment tool provides direct circuitry to effect adjustment of the adjustable implant.

Claim 44 (New): The method of claim 40, wherein said adjustable implant device comprises a synthetic material responsive to electric current.